

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

1. (Currently Amended) A transmitter for selectively transmitting a non-copy protected content signal or a copyright protected processed content signal to a connected receiver, comprising:

transmission processing means for selectively processing a content signal for copyright protection, thereby producing a copyright protected processed content signal;

logic means for determining by an authentication process whether a connected receiver is operable to function in accordance with copyright protection encryption technology; and

transmission controlling means for holding information indicating those receivers that are not enabled to copy content by using either the content signal or the copyright protected processed content signal and for controlling the signal transmitted by the transmitter according to whether or not information indicating the connected receiver is included in the held information, such that said non-copy protected content signal is transmitted if said connected receiver is not enabled to copy content; and

means for monitoring for a change in connection of the receiver connected to said transmitter while said non-copy protected content signal is being transmitted, to control said transmitter to not transmit a non-copy protected content signal when a change in the connected receiver is detected.

2. (Previously Presented) A transmitter as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said transmitter comprises a protection detecting means for determining if said content is copyright protected; and

wherein said transmission controlling means controls the transmitted signal to be a copyright protected content signal when said protection detecting means determines that said content is copyright protected and to be a non-copyright protected content signal regardless of the determination by said protection detecting means when said information indicating the connected receiver is included in said held information.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A transmitter as set forth in claim [[3]] 1,

wherein said transmission controlling means controls said transmitter to transmits transmit [[a]] the copyright protected processed content signal instead of the non-copy protected content signal so that said non-copy protected content signal is not transmitted.

6. (Original) A transmitter as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said transmission controlling means holds information indicating said receiver in a tamper-proof updateable manner.

7. (Currently Amended) A signal transmission method for selectively transmitting a non-copyright protected content signal or a copyright protected content signal to a connected receiver, said method comprising the steps of:

holding in a transmitter information indicating receivers that are not enabled to copy content of a received content signal;

deciding by an authentication process whether or not a connected receiver is operable to function in accordance with copyright protection encryption technology; and

controlling the transmitted signal to be a non-copyright protected content signal or a copyright protected content signal according to whether or not information indicating the connected receiver is included in the held information;

monitoring for a change in connection of the connected receiver while transmitting a non-copyright protected content signal; and

prohibiting the transmission of said non-copyright protected content signal when a change in the connected receiver is detected.

8. (Previously Presented) A signal transmission method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising the steps of

determining whether said content is copyright protected to produce said copyright protected content signal and

transmitting said non-copyright protected content signal even when it is determined that said content is copyright protected when said information indicating the connected receiver is included in said held information.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A signal transmission method as set forth in claim [[9]] 7, wherein [[a]] the copyright protected content signal is transmitted instead of the non-copyright protected content signal so as to prohibit the transmission of said non-copyright protected content signal.

12 - 45. (Canceled)

46. (New) A signal transfer method comprising the steps of
deciding whether or not a connected receiver is based on a specification including an encryption technology for copyright protection;

deciding whether or not name information of the connected receiver is included in information held in a transmitter indicating receivers not having being able to copy content of a received content signal, when it is not decided that the connected receiver is based on the specification including the encryption technology for copyright protection; and

controlling a transmitter to output the content signal or a copyright protected content signal according to whether or not identification information of the connected receiver is included in the held information.

47. (New) A transmitter for selectively transmitting a non-copy protected content signal or a copyright protected processed content signal to a connected receiver, comprising:

a processor configured to selectively process a content signal for copyright protection, thereby producing a copyright protected processed content signal;

a logic unit configured to determine by an authentication process whether a connected receiver is operable to function in accordance with copyright protection encryption technology;

a controller configured to hold information indicating those receivers that are not enabled to copy content by using either the content signal or the copyright protected processed content signal and to control the signal transmitted by the transmitter according to whether or not information indicating the connected receiver is included in the held information, such that said non-copy protected content signal is transmitted if said connected receiver is not enabled to copy content; and

a monitor configured to monitor a change in connection of the receiver connected to said transmitter while said non-copy protected content signal is being transmitted, to control said transmitter to not transmit a non-copy protected content signal when a change in the connected receiver is detected .